Safe use of the Universal Hydraulic Ram Support system on a *groundhog*® mobile Welfare Unit

1. RISK ASSESSMENT

HAZARD IDENTIFIED	POTENTIAL RISK / INJURY	INITIAL RISK	CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED	RESIDUAL RISK
CRUSHING / UNIT COLLAPSE	Structural failure or sudden pressure drop causing the welfare unit to drop onto operatives. Fatal or life-changing injuries.	HIGH	› Perform work strictly on clean, even, flat, and firm ground, do not carry out this procedure on soft ground. › Never rely solely on the hydraulic system. › Deploy **Certified Groundhog support stands/** Safety prop stands to all hydraulic rams and secure with sword pins. › Certified Groundhog support stands are rated to a **Safe Working Load (SWL) of 1000kg each. When using safety prop stands, it is essential these have a SWL of 1000kg.** › **Ensure the unit does not exceed the manufacturer's plated weight by removing all third-party items.**	LOW
HIGH-PRESSURE FLUID INJECTION	Hydraulic line split or fitting failure releasing fluid under high pressure into skin/eyes.	HIGH	› Fully depressurise the system before cracking open any hydraulic lines. › Wear heavy-duty gloves and safety glasses/visors at all times. › Never use bare hands to check for leaks; use a piece of light cardboard.	LOW
MANUAL HANDLING	Musculoskeletal injuries from moving heavy rams, base plates, or support stands.	MEDIUM	› Use proper lifting posture (bend knees, straight back).	LOW
SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS	Slipping on spilt hydraulic oil, tripping over wander leads, hoses, or tools.	MEDIUM	› Keep a spill kit on standby. › Clean up any fluid leaks immediately. › Maintain a clean, organised workspace around the nosecone and axles.	LOW

2. METHOD STATEMENT: REQUIRED TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

- **PPE:** Hard hat, steel-toe boots, safety goggles/eye protection, and heavy-duty mechanics gloves.
- Genuine **Groundhog Universal Hydraulic Rams** and compatible base feet. https://shorturl.at/8zbbe
- **Certified Groundhog Support Stands**: https://shorturl.at/MRenW
- Calibrated torque wrench, M12x50mm (Class 8.8) bolts, replacement hydraulic fittings, and fresh hydraulic fluid.

3. STEP-BY-STEP WORK PROCEDURE

PHASE 1:
PREPARATION & EXCLUSION ZONE

1. **Positioning:** Ensure the Groundhog mobile welfare unit is parked on clean, even, flat, and solid ground.
2. **Exclusion Zone:** Cordon off the area around the unit to ensure non-essential personnel stay clear during lifting operations.
3. **Pre-Check:** Read the default operating instructions located on the nosecone of the unit before commencing any movement.

PHASE 2:
SECURING AND LIFTING THE UNIT SAFELY

1. **Deploy Stands:** Position the dedicated Groundhog Support Stands under each hydraulic ram location.
2. **Secure Pins:** Raise the unit fully via its internal 12V power pack system and immediately secure the support stands using the attached sword pins.
3. **Isolate Power:** Unplug the hydraulic remote control plug.

PHASE 3:
REPLACEMENT / MAINTENANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL RAM SUPPORT

1. **Depressurise:** Carefully relieve any remaining residual pressure within the hydraulic lines.
2. **Disconnect:** If swapping out a damaged ram, disconnect the hydraulic line fittings carefully, capturing any excess oil in a drip tray. Cap the lines to prevent debris ingress.
3. **Unbolt:** Remove the old ram unit. Clean the mounting area thoroughly.
4. **Install Ram:** Fit the new Universal Hydraulic Ram into place. Secure using structural M12x50mm Class 8.8 bolts, tightening them with a torque wrench to **81nm**.
5. **Grease & Fluid Check:** Apply fresh grease to the grease nipples on the base plate assemblies. Top off the main reservoir tank with hydraulic oil until it meets the level indicator line.

PHASE 4:
TESTING & HOUSEKEEPING

1. **Leak Check:** Re-engage power, cycle the hydraulic system up and down cautiously, and check all line connections for leaks.
2. **De-mobilise:** Safely lower the unit to its desired position following the manufacturer's nosecone guidelines, then remove all tools, stands, and safety props.
3. **Disposal:** Dispose of any oily rags or contaminated fluid according to environmental regulations.

SCAN QR to watch the **installation video**

If you require further information on the Universal Hydraulic Ram Support system, scan the QR code above or contact *groundhog*® on: TEL: **01639 641166** | EMAIL: **sales@groundhog.co.uk** | **www.groundhog.co.uk**